

Developmental Science

Department Information

- **Department Head:**
Joel Hektner, Ph.D.
- **Interim Graduate Coordinator:**
Melissa O'Connor, Ph.D.
- **Email:**
melissa.oconnor@ndsu.edu
- **Department Location:**
Evelyn Morrow Lebedeff Hall
- **Department Phone:**
(701) 231-8268
- **Department Web Site:**
www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate_studies/ds/ (http://www.ndsu.edu/hdfs/graduate_studies/ds/)
- **Application Deadline:**
February 1
- **Credential Offered:**
Ph.D.
- **English Proficiency Requirements:**
TOEFL iBT 100 (subscores of at least 24 for speaking and 21 for writing); IELTS 7; Duolinger 125

Core Faculty

Sean Brotherson, Ph.D.

Oregon State University, 2000

Research Interests: Parenting and Fatherhood; Healthy Marriages; Family Stress; Rural Families; Grief and Bereavement; Family Life Education; Family Policy

James E. Deal, Ph.D.

University of Georgia, 1987

Research Interests: Personality Development in Children; Relationship Between Individual Development and Family Relationships

Heather Fuller, Ph.D.

University of Michigan, 2009

Research Interests: Social Relationships Across the Lifespan (e.g. Intergenerational Relationships); Successful Aging and Health Promotion; Aging in Rural and Cross-cultural Contexts; Aging Families and Caregiving; Aging-in-Place, Survey Research and Program Evaluation

Joel Hektner, Ph.D.

University of Chicago, 1996

Research Interests: Prevention Programs For Children with Adjustment Problems; Peer Affiliation Patterns and Peer Influences on Children's Behaviors; Family and School Conditions That Facilitate Optimal Experiences (Flow) and Optimal Development; Social Emotional Learning; Program Evaluation; The Experience Sampling Method

Melissa Lunsman O'Connor, Ph.D.

University of South Florida, 2010

Research Interests: Cognitive and Functional Aging in Healthy and Clinical Populations; Older Drivers; Research Methods; Attitudes toward Dementia

Leanna McWood, PhD.

Auburn University, 2020

Research Interests: Extracurricular Involvement; Social Relationships; Contextual Influences; Sleep; Adolescent Development

Wen Wang, Ph.D.

Michigan State University, 2018

Research Interests: How culture and ethnicity shape parenting; Socialization of children's mastery motivation in at-risk families

Affiliated Faculty within HDFS

Carrie Johnson, Ph.D.

Iowa State University, 2012

Research Interests: Personal Finance for Low-Income and Under-served Populations; Financial Education Impact; Student Loan Debt; Program Delivery Methods and Evaluation; Behavioral Finance across the Lifespan

Christi McGeorge, Ph.D.

University of Minnesota, 2005

Research Interests: Heterosexism and Homophobia; Single Parenting; Women's History; Gender Socialization From a Feminist Perspective

Meagan Scott Hoffman, Ph.D.

Oklahoma State University, 2016

Research Interests: Understanding How Changing Trends in Society Influence Youth; Afterschool Training; Positive Youth Development; Professional Development Methods to Better Meet the Needs of 4-H Staff

Affiliated Faculty outside of HDFS

Ben Balas, Ph.D.,

Psychology

Sarah Boonstoppel, Ph.D.,

Political Science

Erin Conwell, Ph.D.,

Psychology

Britt Heidinger, Ph.D.,

Biological Sciences

Brent Hill, Ph.D.,

Education

Andrea Huseth-Zosel, Ph.D.,

Public Health

Linda Langley, Ph.D.,

Psychology

Carrie Ann Platt, Ph.D.,

Communication

Susan Ray-Degges, Ph.D.,

Apparel, Design and Hospitality Management

Kevin Thompson, Ph.D.,

Criminal Justice and Political Science

Rachelle Vettern, Ph.D.,

Center for 4-H Youth Development